



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIR DISTRICT ADVISES ASBESTOS TESTING FOR PRE-1980 BUILDINGS

Testing Urged Only for Smoke-Damaged Structures Built Before 1980

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) urges people whose homes or structures were built before 1980 and are intact but have suffered smoke damage to take precautions.

Materials containing asbestos were used in construction before 1980. APCD advises home or building owners to first collect samples before having acoustical ceilings scraped or removing ducts, pipe wrap, insulation or other materials that may contain asbestos. Samples should be collected in a sealable bag (e.g. plastic storage bag) and tested for asbestos.

Inhaling asbestos fibers can pose a serious health threat, even many years after exposure.

Asbestos testing services are listed in the Yellow Pages under "Asbestos." The cost for testing is nominal. If asbestos is present, the material should be removed by a certified asbestos removal contractor.

Testing is not necessary if the home or structure has been destroyed by the wildfires and is to be demolished.

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